

# Key Resolve 2009:

## CJTF-E Shines During Korean Training Event

By Specialist Aaron Carpenter

The Combined Joint Task Force for the Elimination of Weapons of Mass Destruction (CJTF-E) helped reinforce the strategic U.S.-Republic of Korea (ROK) relationship during an annual combined training event known as Key Resolve, which was held 9–19 March 2009.

During Key Resolve 2009 (KR-09) and the combined field training exercise Operation Foal Eagle 2009 (FE-09), the CJTF-E and the ROK Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical (NBC) Defense Command demonstrated their warfighting capabilities against a simulated threat that had invaded Korea and other nations and attacked them with hundreds of weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

The Joint Task Force for the Elimination of Weapons of Mass Destruction (JTF-E) (which consists of U.S. Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines) was created when the Army was tasked

(through the 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review) to expand the mission of the 20th Support Command (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and High-Yield Explosives [CBRNE]) to include a joint task force headquarters capable of rapid deployment to command and control weapons of mass destruction—elimination (WMD-E) operations.

The CJTF-E consists of a combination of the JTF-E and its ROK counterparts. In addition to the ROK units contained in the CJTF-E force structure, members of the ROK military are also integrated into the CJTF-E headquarters and staff.

Brigadier General Jeffrey J. Snow, CJTF-E commander, indicated that the collective training conducted at KR-09 and FE-09 was an excellent opportunity for the U.S. and ROK WMD-E forces to share CBRNE tactics, techniques, and procedures. “In fact, the ROK NBC Defense Command has developed a complementary capability to our

CBRNE response teams—perhaps not on the same scale as ours, but able to conduct independent WMD elimination operations or operate in conjunction with the CJTF-E,” he said.

Navy Captain Randall A. Neal, who is the CJTF-E deputy commanding officer and chief of staff of the Joint Elimination Coordination Element (JECE),<sup>1</sup> stated that constant training is needed to supplement the experience. “What you need is a core group of people that are exercising continuously,” he said. The core team of simulation planners, the “White Cell,” was from the JECE. The team planned the KR-09 scenarios and developed the CJTF-E in general.

“This training exercise has been invaluable to the development of CJTF-E and its integration into [the Combined Forces Command],” said Brigadier General Snow. “We’ve come a long way, and I believe we proved our value as enablers for other component commanders here at KR-09. Now the key is taking these lessons learned back to the [United States] and continuing the forward progress.”

#### Endnote:

<sup>1</sup>The JECE is a team of 20th Support Command CBRNE experts who enable the formation of a joint headquarters and provide command and control to a JTF-E conducting counter-CBRNE or counter-WMD operations.

#### Reference:

*Quadrennial Defense Review Report*, Department of Defense, 6 February 2006.

---

*Specialist Carpenter is a print journalist with the 28th Public Affairs Detachment, Fort Lewis, Washington. He holds a bachelor's degree in speech from the University of Hawaii at Mānoa.*



CJTF-E command officers address members of the CJTF-E at the conclusion of the highly successful KR-09.